



## Stop Sign Observation Studies

Studies of stop sign observance on the part of drivers are made to:

- Determine the need for keeping or replacing stop signs.
- Replacing stop signs with yield signs.
- Compare driver obedience of stop signs to accident frequency.
- Determine how to improve driver obedience. (This may be selective enforcement, education, relocation of the signs, fresh painting or reflectorizing.)

### Conducting Studies

The key ingredients in conducting stop sign observance studies are planning and recording.

### Planning

Unless traffic is very heavy, one person can record data for this study at each sign.

The MP should not be in uniform. MP patrols should avoid the area during the time of the study.




All high accident frequency locations should be studied. At least 25 other intersections with stop signs should also be studied for comparison purposes.

The study at each stop sign should last one hour or

more and include at least 50 vehicles for each approach to the intersection.

## Recording

The field sheet below is used to record data during the study. The observer makes an appropriate entry as each vehicle enters the intersection.

LOCATION _____		
TIME _____ TO _____ WEATHER _____		
N/S/E/W/On	ENTERED FAST OVER 15 M.P.H.	
	ENTERED SLOW - 4-15 M.P.H.	
	PRACTICALLY STOPPED - 0-3 M.P.H.	
	STOPPED BY TRAFFIC	
	VOLUNTARY FULL STOP	
RIGHT	STRAIGHT	LEFT
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>		
LEFT	STRAIGHT VOLUNTARY FULL STOP	RIGHT
N/S/E/W/On	STOPPED BY TRAFFIC	
	PRACTICALLY STOPPED - 0-3 M.P.H.	
	ENTERED SLOW - 4-15 M.P.H.	
	ENTERED FAST OVER 15 M.P.H.	
DATE _____ RECORDER _____		

*Driver Observance of Stop Signs Field Sheet*

Data from the field sheets is then transferred to a summary sheet (sample below). In analyzing observance, the following percentages of full stops are used:

Excellent observance	75% or more
Good observance	51% to 74%
Problem intersection	50% or less

Sign on _____ Date _____ Weather _____														
Location _____ Street _____ Sign on _____ Street _____														
Type of vehicle	Made a full stop						Practically stopped		Entered slow		Entered fast		Total	
	Voluntary		Stopped by traffic		Total		0:8 M.P.H.		4:15 M.P.H.		over 15 M.P.H.			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MORNING _____ TIME _____														
Passenger---														
Commercial..														
Total-----														
AFTERNOON _____ TIME _____														
Passenger---														
Commercial..														
Total-----														
EVENING _____ TIME _____														
Passenger---														
Commercial..														
Total-----														
TOTAL														
Passenger---														
Commercial..														
Total-----														
Compiled by _____														

*Driver Observance of Stop Signs Summary Sheet*

## Uses

The results of this study may be used to determine the following:

- ☐ Need to improve stop sign observance through a special enforcement program. (Facts from this study can be used to justify this need to the public.)
- ☐ Need to remove unnecessary stop signs at intersections where a combination of the following factors exists:
  - View at the intersection is unobstructed.

- Vehicular conflicts at the intersection are not a problem.
- The accident rate at the location is not a factor.

Need to make stop signs more visible. Lack of visibility may often be the reason for nonobservance. Some factors in this are:

- ☐ Hourly or seasonal variations (weather, leaves, branches on trees, parked cars, etc.)
- ☐ On wide streets, drivers turning left may not obey stop signs on the right side of the road. This can be corrected by putting another sign on the left side of the road, or overhead flashing red lights.
- ☐ A stop line painted on the pavement may also help motorists observe stop signs.